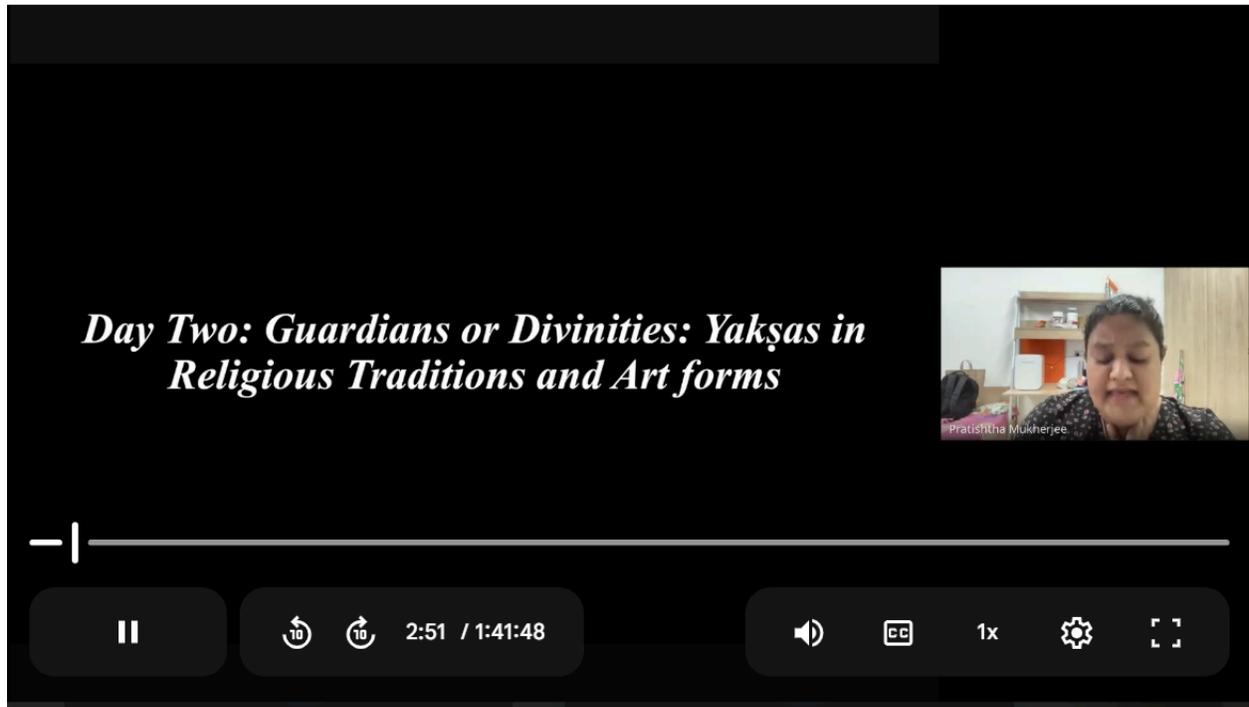


Yaksha

October 31, November 1 and 2, 2025

Mode - Online

A three-day lecture series was conducted by *Dr. Pratishtha Mukherjee* on the evolution of the Yakṣa and Yakṣī traditions, offering an interdisciplinary perspective through art history, archaeology, and cultural anthropology. The sessions traced their origins as independent nature deities associated with fertility and prosperity, their subsequent transformation within Brahmanical, Buddhist, and Jain religious frameworks, and finally their continued presence in contemporary cultural practices, folklore, and ritual traditions across India. The series effectively highlighted how these sacred forms have adapted over time while retaining their symbolic significance, contributing to a deeper understanding of the continuity of belief systems and visual iconography.



Kalakatha

November 1, 8, 15 and 22, 2025

Mode - Online

Sambhasha Foundation collaborated with Citi–CSMVS Museum on Wheels outreach initiative to commence the *Kalā Kathā* series in September.

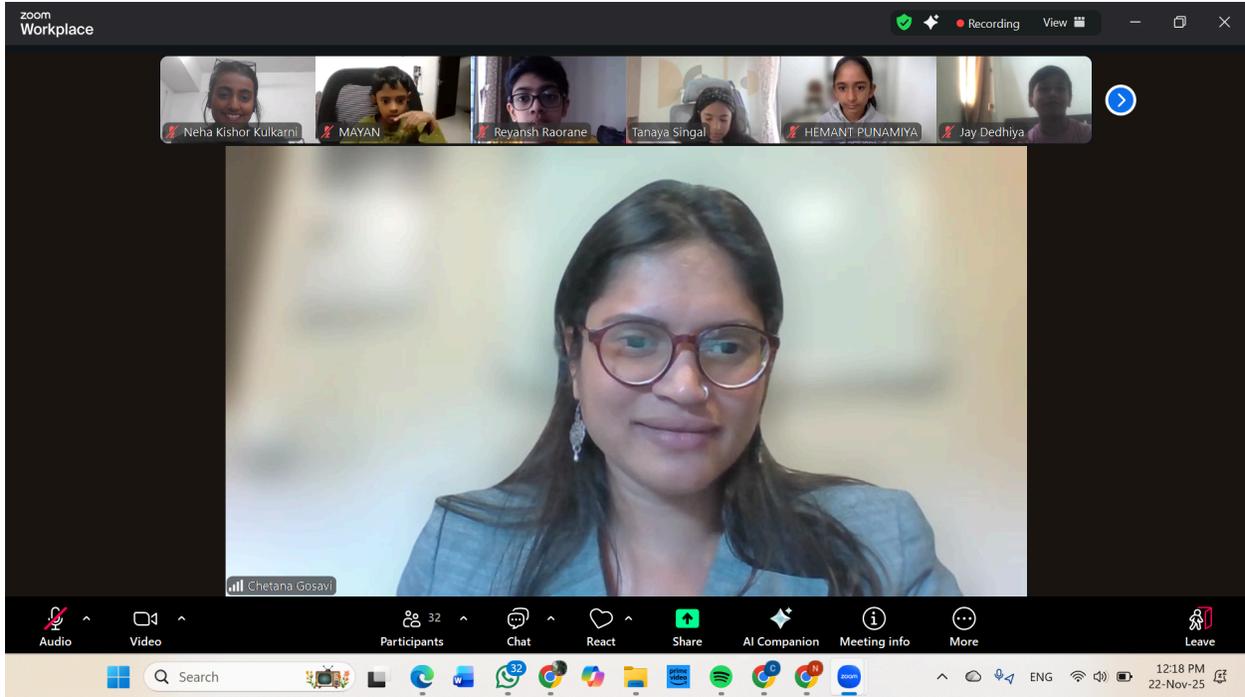
Designed as an eight-session online programme, *Kalā Kathā* focuses on exploring the rich and diverse traditions of Indian arts and crafts through an interdisciplinary and child-centred approach.

The sessions aim to help young learners understand the cultural, historical, and geographical contexts that have shaped India's artistic heritage. The programme encourages curiosity, creativity, and appreciation for traditional knowledge systems while connecting them to contemporary ideas and practices.

During the month of October, three sessions were conducted:

The Metal Craft Traditions	1st November
Mixed Media Puppets, Paint, and Play	8th November
Adivasi Art and Their World	15th November
Tradition of Art in a Changing World	22nd November

All sessions received enthusiastic participation from students, with interactive discussions and creative activities that helped them connect artistic expression with the world around them.



Introduction to Ancient Indian Iconography- Marathi

November 3 to December 17, 2025

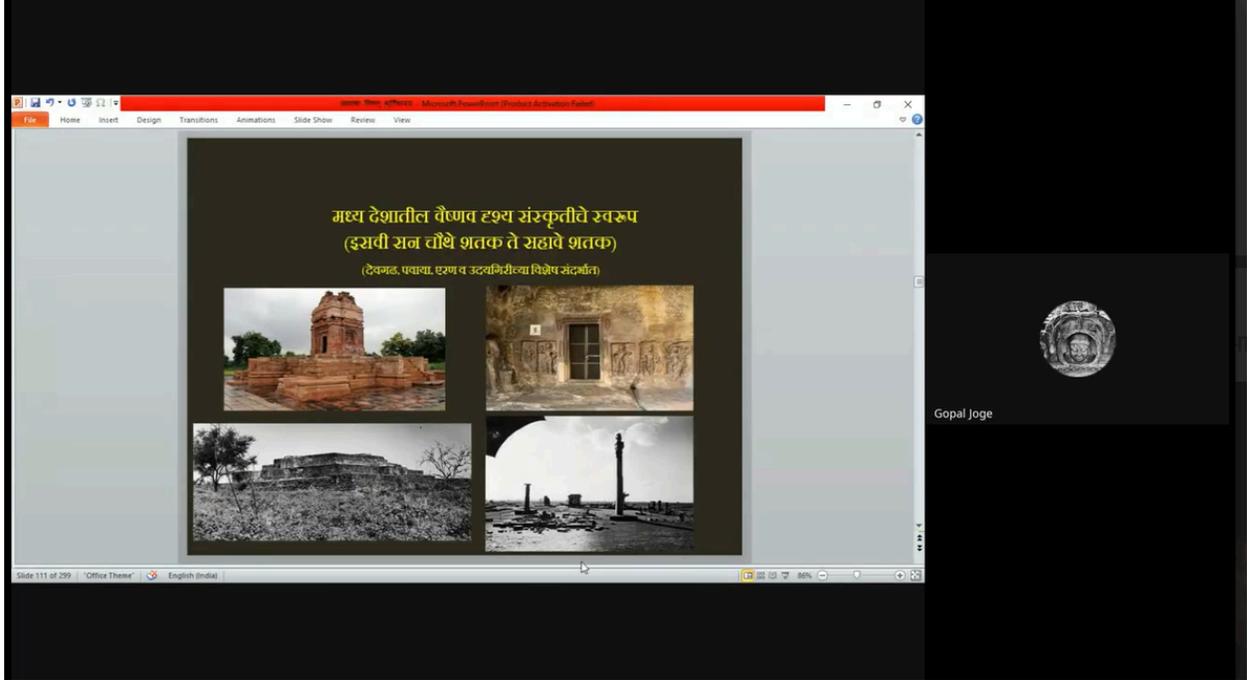
Mode - Online

The **30-session certificate course** titled *Introduction to Ancient Indian Iconography* commenced on **3rd November** and is currently ongoing. The programme is academically oriented, aiming to introduce participants to the iconographic traditions of Ancient India and to trace the development and evolution of symbols within the **Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain** traditions.

The sessions are being facilitated by an invited panel of **distinguished faculty from across India**, representing diverse specialisations in art history, archaeology, and cultural studies.

Course Objectives:

- To familiarise participants with the terminology and conceptual framework of Ancient Indian iconography.
- To explore the semiotics of forms, gestures (*mudrās*), attributes (*āyudhas*), and narrative depictions.
- To understand the evolution and development of the sculptural culture in Ancient India.
- To interpret visual material in its historical and cultural contexts.



Matrubhasha

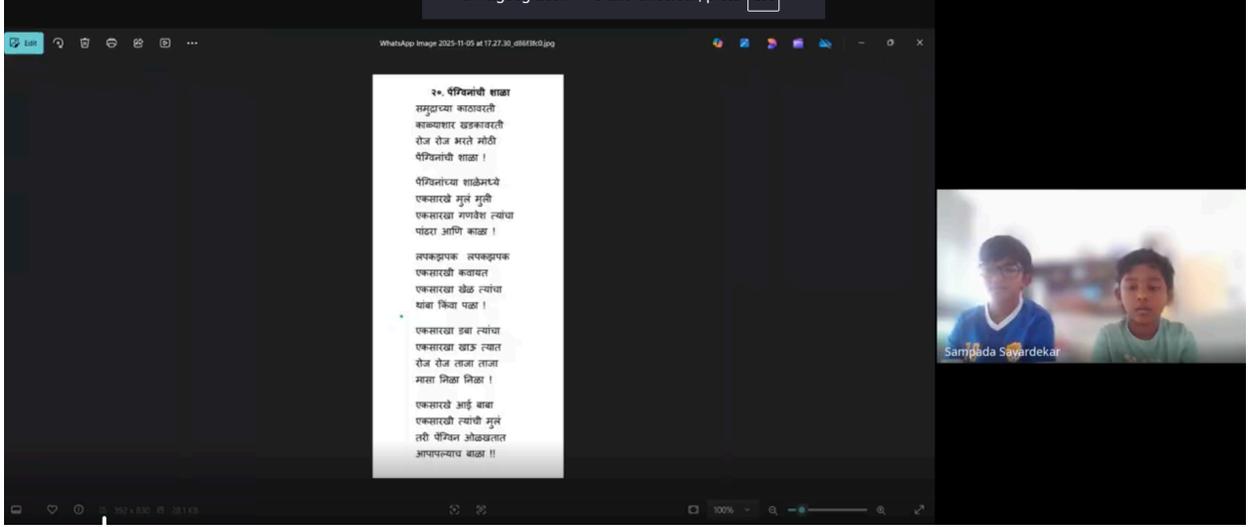
From November 5, 2025

Mode - Online

At Sambhasha Foundation, we believe that language is one of the strongest ties to one's heritage. When children learn their mother tongue, they gain far more than vocabulary; they inherit a way of thinking, feeling, and belonging.

With this vision, we at Sambhasha Foundation have collaborated with Maharashtra Mandal France to offer Online Marathi Classes for Kids in France.

Through this initiative, we aim to support young learners living away from India, helping them remain connected to their roots while growing confidently in a multicultural world. This course will make Marathi learning accessible, engaging, and meaningful for our global community of children.



Kavi Basundi Heritage Walk

November 9, 2025

Mode - Offline

Sambhasha Foundation conducted a special heritage walk titled “*Kavi Basundi and Much More... A Unique Tour of Old Pune*”, designed to introduce participants to the lesser-known cultural layers of Budhwar Peth. The walk highlighted the life, times, and humour of *Kavi Basundi*, a beloved Marathi poet known for his witty, satirical compositions, while simultaneously exploring the historical fabric of the neighbourhood.

Beginning at the Pune Nagarvachan Mandir, participants were guided through significant landmarks such as the Nagarkar Wada and Vasant Cine Pro. Each stop offered insights into Old Pune’s urban evolution, architectural heritage, and the stories that shaped the locality. A delightful highlight of the morning was the tasting of traditional basundi, connecting the poet’s name and legacy with Pune’s culinary heritage. The walk received enthusiastic participation and offered an engaging weekend experience rooted in history, storytelling, and local flavours.



Study Group

November 21, 2025

Mode - Online

This month, the Study Group session was led by Asmi, who conducted an in-depth presentation on the Dodabasappa Temple at Dambal, Karnataka. The session focused on the temple's distinctive star-shaped plan, an architectural hallmark of later Chalukyan design, and its thoughtfully arranged sculptural programme. Participants were introduced to the temple's iconographical features, including its finely executed carvings, symbolic motifs, and the narrative elements embedded within the walls and projections. Asmi also contextualised the monument within the broader Chalukyan artistic tradition, highlighting the craftsmanship and engineering sensibilities that make Dodabasappa a unique yet under-recognised heritage site.

The session offered members a comprehensive understanding of the temple's form, symbolism, and historical significance, enriching our collective appreciation for Karnataka's architectural legacy.

Heritage Trip to Bhopal

November 23 to November 29, 2025

Mode - Offline - onsite

Sambhasha Foundation collaborated as a knowledge partner for heritage excursion for a team of 15 students of Swadha Waldorf School to explore selected heritage sites in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. During the trip, students visited significant sites such as Bhimbetka, Sanchi, Udaygiri and the Vanavihar Tribal Museum. This immersive experience aimed to enhance classroom teaching by aligning the trip with the current history syllabus, making the learning process more relevant and engaging. The carefully curated itinerary fostered excitement and a deeper understanding of the region's rich heritage.

Museum Walk- Deccan College

November 29, 2025

Mode - Offline

Sambhasha Foundation hosted a special Museum Story Walk at the Deccan College Archaeological Museum, designed to introduce participants to India's deep past through an engaging, narrative-led experience. The walk was conducted by Mr. Oshin Bamb, whose expertise in archaeology added exceptional clarity and depth to the session.

Instead of a conventional tour, the walk unfolded as a story across time, guiding participants through the museum's galleries, from the earliest traces of human activity in the Prehistoric Gallery, to the lived experiences of Chalcolithic communities at Inamgaon, the funerary traditions of the Megalithic period, and the urban and cultural developments of the Early Historic era. Mr. Bamb wove together artefacts, excavation stories, and cultural insights, helping participants understand not only *what* these objects were, but *how* they reveal everyday life, beliefs, and technological shifts in ancient India. The walk also covered the museum's specialised galleries on Art and Architecture, Epigraphy and Numismatics, and Ethnoarchaeology, showcasing how inscriptions, coins, sculptures, and contemporary ethnographic parallels help archaeologists reconstruct the past with greater nuance.

Participants responded enthusiastically to the story-based approach, engaging with questions, reflections, and observations throughout the session. The experience made archaeology accessible, relatable, and enjoyable, particularly for first-time museum visitors.

Research Projects

PGKM School Project based learning programme 'Exploring Maharashtra' Grade V

Building on the success of the previous year's project-based social science learning programme conducted with Grade VI students of PGKM school, this ongoing initiative aims to explore the

impact of early experiential learning in shaping foundational social science understanding among younger learners. Observations from earlier programmes have indicated that introducing students to the study of their surroundings and their formation through activities, interaction, and storytelling significantly enriches the overall learning experience.

In response to this, Sambhasha Foundation has designed a customised curriculum titled **“Exploring Maharashtra,”** developed specifically for Grade V students, conducted with Grade V students of PGKM school. The programme adopts a project-based learning framework that connects key concepts of social science with students’ lived experiences, thereby emphasising the relevance of historical and geographical knowledge in their immediate surroundings.

The programme is being implemented in close alignment with the school’s monthly interdisciplinary themes to ensure that learning remains both meaningful and integrated. By linking social science concepts with other subjects such as environmental studies, language, and art, *Exploring Maharashtra* seeks to create a holistic and contextually rich educational experience for young learners.

Ethnoarchaeological Survey of Traditional Communities in Pune

Mode - Offline

The research project of the Ethnoarchaeological Survey of Traditional Communities in Pune commenced this month. Pune, often referred to as the “Cultural Capital of Maharashtra,” is home to diverse traditional communities who have preserved their ancestral professions. These professions, ranging from pottery and metalwork to weaving and making jewellery, show the rich cultural heritage of the region. However, with rapid urbanization and modernization, many of these traditions are at risk of fading away. The purpose of this project is to conduct an ethnoarchaeological survey of 10 traditional communities in Pune. The aim is to document their cultural practices, tools, techniques, and the historical significance of their professions. This study will help in understanding how these professions have evolved over time and the challenges faced by these communities today. The fieldwork is scheduled every Wednesday, when the old town is explored in search of these communities. This month, the communities like Burud (basket makers), Tambat (coppersmiths), Kumbhar (potters), and Attarwale (perfume makers) were being surveyed.

This month, we have successfully documented the traditional practices of two communities as part of our ongoing ethnoarchaeological project. The documentation has been carried out digitally, with the processes visually represented through detailed illustrations. These have been compiled into informative brochures. Additionally, the script for the documentary is in its final stages, and we look forward to beginning production soon.



Nitsure Life Documentation

The *Balkrishna Nitsure Life Documentation Project* focused on recording the life, craft practice, and philosophy of Balkrishna Nitsure, an independent woodcraft practitioner based in Pune. Trained in basic technical skills during his schooling and professionally engaged as a typist for several decades, Nitsure represents a rare example of a self-taught artisan who consciously chose to practise craft solely for personal fulfilment, rather than commercial gain.

The documentation captures his transition from professional life to full-time engagement with woodcraft after retirement, highlighting his sustained commitment to hand-crafted processes, patience-intensive carving techniques, and the use of found or reclaimed wood. The *Balkrishna Nitsure Life Documentation Project* is being undertaken using an oral history-based documentation methodology, as Balkrishna Nitsure is no longer alive. To reconstruct his life, practice, and philosophy, detailed conversations are being conducted with his family members, friends, former students, associates, and neighbours, allowing for a multi-vocal understanding of his personality, creative process, and everyday life.

In addition to oral testimonies, the project includes site-based documentation, with a visit to his former residence and workspace, where observations were recorded regarding his working environment, tools, spatial organisation, and the material traces of his craft practice. e. The documentation contributes to preserving the legacy of a non-commercial, self-motivated craft practice and demonstrates the value of oral history in recording intangible cultural heritage.